

## **PROFILE: Opening Minds USA (OM)**

### **Brief Description of support available for Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships**

Opening Minds USA™ is the trusted advisor and professional resource to people who educate and care for young children. Opening Minds designs experiences, offers novel solutions and puts new ideas to use to advance the field of early childhood education and better the lives of young children and their families.

### **Description of organizational capacity**

We **customize** and provide high quality professional development learning experiences for organizations and individuals based on the intended outcomes and goals of the professionals and systems involved. We have the capacity to meet the needs of start-ups as well as lead change in well-established institutions on a consultation basis to advise or develop a work product; offer knowledge or skill building education session(s), or as an ongoing learning partner **throughout the State of Illinois**.

### **Opening Minds USA is at the ready to support Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships with Inclusion and Governance.**

The National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI) in their 2008 review of early childhood professional development identified six key assumptions needed to develop a conceptual framework for effective early childhood professional development. The conceptual framework considers the *who*, *what* and *how* of professional development and interconnectivity among them. In the list of key assumptions, second only to the need to consider all formats (formal and informal) is the need to fully consider the ECE workforce – roles and organizational affiliation. The early childhood workforce constitutes a group of professionals who are widely diverse with respect to their roles (e.g., teachers, teaching assistants, family child care providers, paraprofessionals, disability specialists, consultants, family support providers, directors and administrators, etc.) and their organizational affiliations (e.g., Head Start, state-funded preschool programs and preventive initiative programs in community child care centers, and programs housed in public elementary and secondary schools). Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships early childhood programs encompass many of these affiliations and include all types of professionals and para-professionals. Opening Minds USA is unique in its ability to fully consider not only the “what” and “how” of professional development as described above, but also the “who.”

The modes, content and packages of Opening Minds USA technical assistance build and deepen people’s knowledge and skillsets; strengthens relationships and facilitates collaborations; provides resources and ongoing supports; provides appropriate evidence based instructional strategies or best practices for governance and fiscal management, and strengthens people’s ability to use data or research for decision making.

Whether in person, on site, by phone, video-conference, email, or online group, Opening Minds USA aligns the professional development activities to the State-approved National Standards for Professional Learning. The modes, content and package can vary depending on the needs, intended outcomes and the context of the individuals and organizations seeking assistance and may include but not be limited to:

- **Professional Development Design and Session Planning**
- **Research, Needs Analysis, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation**
- **Research Based Learning Sessions in a number of content areas including but not limited to social-emotional development, trauma informed practice, human development across the life span, family support, cultural humility, leadership, management, governance, health & wellness, early childhood development, education and practice.**

- **Specialized facilitation such as coaching, mentoring, and reflective supervision** to build powerful instructors, more effective teachers and leaders.
- **Job-embedded Professional Learning Hybrid Models** which establish Professional Learning Communities that build the capacity of adult learners to engage in an ongoing process for growth and self-reflection as well as improve their practice in the context of their day-to-day classroom/or organization's operations.
- **Customized Professional Development Consultation** to align curriculum and planning with early learning standards and the common core, and other areas of need.
- **Create work products** (policies, strategic plans)
- **Implement Packages such as Right On Course (ROC)**, which improves the social and emotional competencies of adults to work with the challenging behaviors of young children who have been exposed to violence and other traumatic experiences and life changing events. The goal of ROC is to build the professional culture, knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of emotionally fragile young children. ROC includes learning sessions in exposure to violence; grief and bereavement, cultural humility and therapeutic play, and **Lekotek** which offers numerous instructional and environmental strategies to integrate young children with special needs in to the life of the family, community, classroom or school.

#### **Technical Assistance Service Delivery Costs\***

**Half Day 0-3 hours/Full Day 3.1-5 hours**

#### **Research & Writing**

\$ 75 per hour (project estimate & cap provided)

#### **Legal Review**

\$ 320 per hour

#### **Consultation** (4 hour minimum)

\$ 320 per hour

#### **Facilitation** (4 hour minimum)

\$ 620 per hour (specialist)

#### **Coaching- Job Embedded Professional Learning**

\$ 500 Half day \$1500 Full day

#### **Learning Sessions**

\$2500 Half day (up to 250 people)

\$3500 Full day (up to 250 people)

\$5000 Keynote

#### **OM Conferences, Institutes, Symposia**

\$ 125 per person

Visit: [www.openingmindsusa.org](http://www.openingmindsusa.org) for schedule & scope

#### **Packages**

##### **Right On Course and Lekotek**

\$15,500 (for up to 3 classrooms)

\*please note, there may be additional expenses for mileage, materials, and venue for some listed above

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